Stopping of the export of handlooms products from India by the U.S. Government

1056. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S. Government has blocked exports of handloom products, from India on the plea that these were stitched on machines; if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with the U.S. authorities and with what results;

(b) whether the issue was settled earlier in 1985, if so, what are the reasons for which the U.S. authorities are creating problems for Indian exporters and what is the value of goods blocked;

(c) whether Government had called a meeting of the exporters of handloom products; if so, what was the outcome thereof and whether a long term plan has been drawn up for export of these items; and

(d) what other steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that flow of exports in this sector is not affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (d) The U.S. Government had recently held-up certain handloom consignments exported from India on the ground that these had 100 per cent machine stitching. This issue was raised by the U.S. Government in 1985 and was settled at that time to the satisfaction of the Government of India. Since the present stand of the U.S. Government was not acceptable to the Government of India, the Government of India requested the U.S. Government to allow quota free access to the handloom made-up goods as per the Agreement. Consultations were also held between the two Governments. Final response from the U.S. Government has not come so far.

In the mean while, the Government of India has taken necessary steps to get all the held up consignments and similar future consignments cleared. Exporters have been advised to maintain the trade flow. Exports of handloom made-up consignments can, therefore, continue to the U.S.A.

1057. [*Transferred to the 5th May*, 1989].

Smuggling of arms by terrorist group

1058. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantities of smuggled arms were found in posesion of the terrorist group which was recently apprehended in the border village of Ferozepur district of Punjab;

(b) how many terrorists and infiltrators have been killed in the border areas of Punjab during the last three years; and

(c) whether the fencing work which was started some time back has been completed in the border areas so as to curb the infiltration by the terrorists and intruders and also smuggling of weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) According to information furnished by the CPWD, which is executing the work, as on 15-4-89 fencing has been completed in a stretch of 105.05 Kms. in the Punjab Sector and 25.70 Kms. in the Rajasthan sector. The entire work is expected to be completed by May 15, 1989.

Visa regulations Governing visitors from Bangladesh

1059. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to plug the loopholes in the visa regulations

governing visitors from Bangladesh so as to contain the menace of infiltration into India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Visa policy in respect of Bangladesh nationals is under constant review and whenever any change is deemed necessary, suitable action will be taken.

Arms dealers operating in the Capital

1060. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many arms dealers are operating in the Capital;

(b) since when they are operating; and

(c) what are the details of their past records

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Information about issue of dealership licences under the Arms Act, 1959 or details of their operation are not compiled by the Central Government. Dealership licences are issued and the operation of such licences are monitored by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to whom necessary powers in this behalf are delegated.

Sir Edmund Hillary's advice for the protection of the environment

1061. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sir Edmund Hillary, the first person who conquered Mount Everest has recently given an advice with regard to the protection of the environment of Everest, for putting restriction in the Himachal area and for imposing a total ban on the tourist traffic for a minimum period of five years; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Sir Edmund Hillary has recommended that tourism in the Himalayas should be sensibly controlled but not prohibited. At the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA) Conference in Kathmandu, he put forward the suggestion that due to accumulation of rubbish and waste, the Mount Everest should be closed to the mountaineers for a five year period to enable the mountain to regenerate. Sir, Edmund Hillary has not given any suggestion specifically pertaining to Himachal Pradesh.

(b) In order to protect the environment of the ecologically fragile Himalayan areas, it is necessary that tourism in this area is well regulated; and, a number of measures have been taken by the concerned State Governments in this rgard. Directions have also been issued by the Government of India under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for regulating tourism in the Doon Valley.

Transfer of clerical staff from one bank to another

1062. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a set policy regarding the transfer of clerical staff of banks from one State to another and particularly